

Andrew Jackson to John Forsyth, January 23, 1838, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO SECRETARY FORSYTH.

Hermitage, January 23, 1838.

My dear sir, I observe in the Globe giving the proceedings of the House of Representatives of the 5th instant, the following amendment proposed by Mr. Adams to the resolution reported by Col Howard Chairman of the committee of Foreign relations, "and also copies of all instructions to the officers of the Government of the United States and all correspondence with them, with the Government and officers of Mexico and of great Britain concerning the preservation of the neutrality of the United States in the civil wars and insurrections in Mexico and in any of the British provinces north of the united states, since the year 1829, and particularly of a letter from the late President of the United States to the Secretary of the Territory of Arkansa dated on or about the 10th of December 1830.¹

¹ For the facts bearing on this incident see Bassett's *Jackson*, II. 677.

I see from your reply to this call dated January 8th 1838 that there is no such letter to be found on the files of the State Department. From the memorandum which I find on my memorandum Book and hereafter set forth I expect that all the correspondence on the subject of an intended enterprise said to be contemplated by Governor Houston communicated by a letter from Dr Marable to Genl Duff Green, and by the latter to me, will be found in the war Department.

Being informed about that time, that the force to be employed by Genl Houston on this enterprise were the cherokees, and other western Indians, the secretary of war being the

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superintendent of Indian affairs, that Depart. was charged with attention to this subject. The memorandum is as follows, "May 21st. 1829. Genl Duff Green has furnished me with an extract of a letter from Doctor Marable to Genl Green containing declarations of Governor Houston, late of Tennessee, that he would conquer Mexico or Texas and be worth two millions in two years etc. etc. Believing this to be the mere efusions of a distempered brain, but as a precautionary measure, I have directed the secretary of war to write, and inclose to Governor Pope of Arkansa this extract, and instruct him to make diligent enquiry, and if any such illegal project should be discovered to exist to adopt prompt measures to put it down, and to give to the government the earliest intelligence of such illegal enterprise with the names of all those who may be concerned therein" Therefore I believe you will find all the correspondence on this subject on file in the Department of War, which I hope you will have the goodness to obtain, and communicate with this letter to the House of Representatives.

I have also written to Governor Fulton, now of the senate, but in December 1830, was Secretary of the Territory of Arkansa, to furnish to the House of Representatives, through its Speaker, all letters of mine if any of that date official, or unofficial, confidential, or private written to him as Secretary of the Territory of Arkansa on or about the 10th day of December 1830, on the subject of Mexico or Texas or any other subject that might relate to it. If he has not these with him, the Executive records of Arkansa will furnish them, and I trust he will comply with my request in such a manner that will leave no room for suspicion, that I, for one moment, lost sight of what was due to our neutrality, and national character.

I have searched over my papers as far as my feeble health permitted and the only thing relating to the subject that I have been able to find is the memorandum before recited.

I am very respectfully yours